



Centreville Police Department

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Police Department
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July 8, 2004

TO: Town Council of Centreville, Centreville, Maryland

SUBJECT: Semi - Annual Report – Centreville Police Department – Year 2004

I am pleased to present you with an overview on the public safety status of the Town of Centreville as reflected by the enforcement and investigative efforts of your police department.

CRIME STATISTICS

The most important concern to address is the status of Part I (serious/violent) Crimes that occurred in Centreville during the first six months of 2004. Attached to this report is a Data Comparison Chart, which reflects the number and changes to Part I (violent crime) in Centreville for the first six months of 2004 as compared to 2003, by month.

Overall, Part I Crime has risen by 29 percent during this six-month comparison. There has been a 65 percent increase in Aggravated Assault in 2004 for a total of 28 cases. We have also noted an increase of 45 percent in the number of theft cases with a total of 45 reported cases.

There has been a 75 percent decrease in Burglary/Breaking and Entering cases this year. We have also noted that there has been a 200 percent decrease in Motor Vehicle Thefts. There have been no homicides, robberies, or rapes reported to this department.

During the first half of 2004, we have realized a 21 percent increase in lesser crimes. Weapon violations increased by 100 percent with one violation. Other assault cases had increased 71 percent with 12 reported cases. The number of drug violations (arrests) has increased 240 percent with 17 arrests. Drunken driving arrests have also increased by 200 percent with 6 arrests. Forgery cases are up 900 percent with 10 cases investigated.

We did realize a decrease in some of our lesser crimes. Minor Assault decreased by 14.3 percent with 12 cases reported, as an example.

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In general terms, our total calls for obligated service, those activities generated by the officers, or services that we were dispatched to handle, increased by 20 percent. Officers have been obligated to 2,929 calls of obligated time.

Criminal arrests of adults have increased by 59 percent. Arrests of juveniles have increased by 125 percent.

We have investigated 155 criminal cases thus far this year. We have closed 67.7 percent by arrest or exceptional means.

During the first six months of 2004, officers have served 33 criminal warrants/ summons, a 21 percent decrease over the same period 2003.

MOTOR VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT

During the first half of 2004, there was a 12 percent increase in the number of traffic accidents reported to the department.

There was a 126 percent increase in the number of traffic citations issued for violations of the Motor Vehicle Code. A total of 418 Uniform Traffic Citations were through the first half of 2004.

We have also increased by 60 percent, the number of warnings issued for motor vehicle violations. A total of 2,247 warnings have been issued this year. Warnings are a great educational tool plus it gives the officer a chance to meet people.

Through the first six months of 2004, we have arrested 35 individuals for driving on a revoked/suspended license. This is a 35 percent increase over the same time period in 2003.

Drunken driving arrests have also increased by 200 percent during the first six months of 2004. We have apprehended six DWI's this year.

SUMMARY

Through the first six months of 2004, we have seen an increase in the number of theft cases and aggravated assault incidents. As a result, Overall, Part I crimes has risen 29 percent this year over the same six month period in 2003.

Under the term thefts, we include bad checks; shoplifting, forgery, theft from vehicles and other similar crimes. We should note that Burglary has decreased by 75 percent, and auto theft by 200 percent.

If the current trend in reported thefts and aggravated assaults continues, there is a good possibility that at years end, we will show a increase in Part I crimes. Is this a concern, it certainly is.

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Many of the theft cases could be eliminated if the citizens had secured their vehicles and the property left in them, and if our businesses would utilize anti theft equipment such as video surveillance cameras.

I want to thank each member of the Town Council as well as the Town Manager for their full support of the police department. Without that support, our jobs would have been difficult.

Each officer deserves special thanks for their individual contributions to public safety in our town. Without their dedication and initiative, we may not have been so successful. We will as a department, continue our aggressive enforcement of all laws and ordinances.

Sincerely,

Benjamin H. Cohey – Colonel
Chief of Police
Centreville Police Department

Cc: Town Manager
Officers
File